

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

1. Rejection of Claims 1-3 and 5 Under 35 USC §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,164,797 (Crane)

Reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 is respectfully requested on the grounds that the Examiner has misinterpreted Fig. 1 of the Crane patent and/or the claims of the present application.

Claim 1 specifically recites that “*each said compact fluorescent lamp is supported by a **single** one of said respective sockets and electrically connected to said ballast mechanism **solely** by said one electrical connection end. . .*” This claim language means that each lamp can only be supported at one end. No lamp can be supported at two ends.

In contrast, Crane clearly shows a conventional arrangement in which each lamp is supported and connected at **two** ends. The phrase “**connected. . .solely by said one electrical connection end**” in claim 1 precludes the claim from reading on a socket arrangement for connecting the lamp at two ends.

It appears from the Examiner’s argument on page 6 of the Official Action that the Examiner is somehow misinterpreting Fig. 1 of Crane as showing sockets for solely supporting and connecting a single end of the lamp, and not two ends. However, col. 2, lines 18-26 of the Crane patent clearly states that:

*A conventional lighting fixture, as illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2, includes a rectangular fixture housing 10, in which are mounted a plurality, here three, of **pairs** of axially aligned **spaced lamp holders** 12, 14, and 16 each of which receives the **opposite ends** of a conventional fluorescent lamp (now shown).”*

The Examiner will note that this passage refers to pairs of lamp holders 12, 14, 16, and that Fig. 1 of the Crane patent (a copy of which is attached as Appendix I) in fact shows **three pairs** of

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holders 12, 14, and 16 on respective left and right sides of the figure. These **pairs** (the word “pair” refers to the number two) of lamp holders are said to be “axially aligned” and to receive “**opposite ends** of a conventional fluorescent lamp. For example, pair 12 (referring to the left side lamp holder 12 and the right side lamp holder 12 shown in Fig. 1) holds one end of the lamp on one side and one end of the lamp on the opposite side, *i.e.*, **opposite ends** of a lamp. Pairs 14 and 16 also hold opposite ends of the lamp. As a result, **each pair of lamp holders 12, 14, and 16 holds the lamp at TWO ends.** Therefore, the lamp holders shown in Fig. 1 of Crane do not read on the claimed invention.

The Examiner is apparently unfamiliar with the “conventional fluorescent lamp” referred to in lines 23-24 of col. 2 of the Crane patent. Such fluorescent lamps indeed have electrical contacts at **two ends** so that they can be connected by the **two ends**. Numerous examples of such two-end connected lamps can be found in hardware stores, supermarkets, and offices. There is absolutely no reason to assume that the Crane patent’s reference to a “conventional fluorescent lamp” refers to a single ended lamp, particularly when Fig. 1 of the Crane patent clearly shows pairs of fixtures for connecting the lamp at two ends, as required by the claims of the present application.

Because the rejection is based on a clear misunderstanding of Fig. 1 of the Crane patent as disclosing single-ended connection of lamps, and/or mis-interpretation of the claim language as reading on opposite-ended connection of the lamps, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5 is improper and should be withdrawn.

2. Rejection of Claim 6 Under 35 USC §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,164,797 (Crane) and 6,194,840 (Chang)

This rejection is again respectfully traversed on the grounds that the Chang patent, like the Crane patent, fails to disclose or suggest fluorescent lamps are each supported and electrically connected at one end by a single respective socket, the single sockets in turn being supported by the ballast which is mounted to a fixture, the ceiling, or a wall. Instead, the Chang patent is

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completely silent as to the construction of the socket, its connection to the ballast, and mounting of the ballast. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Having thus overcome each of the rejections made in the Official Action, withdrawal of the rejections and expedited passage of the application to issue is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Urcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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